

MARCUS MESCHER
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Boston College (2013)

Dissertation: "Doing Likewise: A Theology of Neighbor and Pedagogy for Neighbor-Formation"

M.T.S., Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (2009): Concentration in Theological Ethics

Honors B.A., Marquette University (2004): *magna cum laude*

Majors in English and Spanish Language & Literature; Minors in Theology and Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

The Ethics of Encounter: Christian Neighbor Love as a Practice of Solidarity (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2020).

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

"The Moral Impact of Digital Devices" *Journal of Moral Theology* 9:2 (June 2020), forthcoming.

"Mercy: The Crux of Pope Francis' Moral Imagination," *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* 16:2 (2019), 253-277.

"Reclaiming Grace in Catholic Social Teaching" *Praxis: Interdisciplinary Journal of Faith & Justice* 1:2 (2019): 123-141.

"Teaching *Magis* at College: Meaning, Mission, and Moral Responsibility" *Jesuit Higher Education* 7:2 (2018): 37-55.

"Families in Crisis and the Need for Mercy" *Journal of Moral Theology* 7:1 (January 2018): 28-69.

"Beyond Slacktivism: A Culture of Encounter and Ecological Conversion through a Screen?" *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* 13:2 (2016): 329-344.

Book Chapters:

"Marriage & Family" in *T&T Clark Handbook of Christian Ethics* ed. Tobias Winright (Bloomsbury, 2020), forthcoming.

"Reading the Screens of Our Times: Attention and Resistance" in *Sex, Love, and Families: Catholic Perspectives* eds. Julie Hanlon Rubio and Jason King (Liturgical, 2020), 271-282.

"Mercy" in *Pope Francis: A Vision for Mercy, Justice, Love and Care for the Earth* ed. Massimo Faggioli and Barbara Wall (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2019), 102-127.

"Liturgy as Power-Sharing: Synergy for Solidarity" in *Liturgy + Power* eds. Brian P. Flanagan and Johann M. Vento (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2017), 46-62.

"Disciples in Mission: Evangelization, Liberation, and a 'Theology of Neighbor'" in *2010 Boston: The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity* eds. Todd M. Johnson, et al. (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2012), 180-192.

"Neighbor to Nature" in *Green Discipleship* ed. Tobias Winright (Winona, MN: Anselm, 2011), 200-217.

Book Reviews:

Sex on Earth as it is in Heaven: A Christian Eschatology of Desire by Patricia Beattie Jung in *Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics* (2020), forthcoming.

College Hookup Culture & Christian Ethics by Jennifer Beste in *Journal of Religion* 100:1 (2020), 129-130.

Putting Others First: The Christian Ideal of Others-Centeredness by T. Ryan Byerly in *Journal of Moral Theology* 8:2 (2019), 143-144.

Politics, Justice, and War: Christian Governance and the Ethics of Warfare by Joseph E. Capizzi in *Journal of Church and State* 59:1 (Winter 2017), 106-108.

Readings from the Edges: The Bible and People on the Move by Jean-Pierre Ruiz in *Political Theology* 14:2 (April 2013), 258-260.

Catholic Social Learning: Educating the Faith that Does Justice by Roger Bergman in *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* 9:1 (Winter 2012), 197-199.

Select Popular Articles:

- “The Unfinished Work of Saint Óscar Romero” *Millennial Journal*, March 24, 2020.
- “5 Lessons Pope Francis Has Taught with His Actions More Than His Words” *America*, March 12, 2020.
- “The Costliness of Jesuit Education” *Medium*, November 22, 2019.
- “Confronting Homophobia in our Church” *Dailey Theology*, June 4, 2019.
- “Resisting Slacktivism, Reclaiming Solidarity” *Daily Theology*, November 7, 2016.
- “Peace Requires Interfaith Solidarity,” *Millennial Journal*. September 22, 2016.
- “Sports, Solidarity, and #BlackLivesMatter,” *Millennial Journal*. July 16, 2016.
- “The Problem of Indifference,” *National Catholic Reporter*. February 29, 2016.
- “Alan Kurdi, Martyr” *Justice Magazine: The Catholic Social Justice Quarterly* Autumn 2015, 8-11.
- “Guns in America: Ideology or Idolatry?” *Millennial Journal*. August 31, 2015.
- “The Environmental Encyclical is Out – Now What?” *Millennial Journal*. July 2, 2015.
- “A Virtuous Response to Terror?” *Millennial Journal*. April 22, 2013.
- “Fifty Years Later, Are We Still the Church of the Poor?” *Millennial Journal*. September 11, 2012.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Resistance, Persistence, and Solidarity: Practicing Spiritual Wisdom in/as Families Today” College Theology Society Annual Convention, Spring Hill College, AL, May 28-31, 2020.
- “The Ethics of Encounter: Tenderness, Not Tolerance” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 9-12, 2020.
- “The Problem of Tolerance” Catholic Theological Society of America Convention, Pittsburgh, June 2019.
- “Solidarity in a Fractured World: Building an Ethical Framework for Pope Francis’ ‘Culture of Encounter’” College Theology Society Annual Convention, College of the Holy Cross, South Bend, June 2019.
- “Bridging the Divide: The Preferential Option for the Poor as Friendship” University of Notre Dame Catholic Social Tradition Conference, South Bend, March 21-23, 2019.
- “Catholic Social Thought: An Imaginative Framework to Build a *Habitus* of Grace,” Catholic Theological Society of America Convention, Indianapolis, June 7-10, 2018.
- “The Future of Marriage & Family Life: Where Will Pope Francis’ ‘Revolution of Tenderness’ Take Us?” College Theology Society Annual Convention, St. Catherine University, May 31-June 3, 2018.
- “Mercy: The Crux of Pope Francis’ Moral Imagination,” Conference on Pope Francis, A Voice Crying Out in the World, Villanova University, April 13-15, 2018.
- “Friendship in the Christian Tradition: An Ethical Overview and Future Possibilities” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, November 18-21, 2017.
- “The Politics of Parenting: Responding to Putnam’s *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, New Orleans, January 5-8, 2017.
- “Liturgy as Power-Sharing: Synergy for Solidarity” College Theology Society Annual Convention, Rockhurst University, June 2-5, 2016.
- “Activism or Slacktivism: Encounter, Ecology, and the Wild through a Screen” College Theology Society Annual Convention, University of Portland, May 28-31, 2015.
- “Doing Likewise Today: Neighborly Solidarity in an Age of the ‘Buffered Self’” Society of Christian Ethics Annual Meeting, Seattle, January 9-12, 2014.
- “The Legacy and Lasting Challenges of Vatican II for Solidarity with the Poor” Vatican II: 50 Years Later Conference, University of St. Thomas, September 20-22, 2012.
- “Connectivity for *Koinonia*: Translating Mission in an Online World” College Theology Society Annual Convention, St. Mary’s University of Texas, May 31-June 3, 2012.
- “Disciples in Mission: Evangelization, Liberation, and a ‘Theology of Neighbor’” The Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity Conference, Boston University, November 5-6, 2010.
- “‘Essential’ Matters: Economic Justice and Ecological Peace” College Theology Society Annual Convention, University of Portland, June 3-6, 2010.
- “Making ‘Essential’ Mean ‘Essential’: Love of Neighbor and Love of Nature” New England Ethics Colloquium, Yale Divinity School, April 9, 2010.

SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “How Do We Build a Culture of Encounter?” Xavier University. March 30, 2020.
- “Catholic Sexual Ethics” Bellarmine Chapel Youth Group. February 23, 2020.
- “Toward Restorative Justice following the Clergy Abuse Scandal” Villanova University. November 1, 2019.
- “On Conscience and Church Teaching” Brebeuf Jesuit Prep, Indianapolis. October 24, 2019.
- “Teaching Christian Sexuality” John Carroll University, Cleveland. October 18, 2019.
- “Contemplation and Environmental Responsibility” Ignatian Pedagogy for Sustainability Conference, Xavier University. September 16, 2019.
- “Who Are Our Students? What Do They Need from Us?” Presentation to AJCU Campus Ministry Directors at Xavier University. March 27, 2019.
- “The Catholic Moral Life” Bellarmine RCIA Program. February 28 and March 7, 2019.
- “From Hospitality to Kinship” Q Commons, University Christian Church. Cincinnati, OH. October 25, 2018.
- “Power, Peace, and Passion” Xavier Mass of the Holy Spirit Gospel Reflection. September 11, 2018.
- “Liturgy and Solidarity: Beyond Frontiers,” Boston College. April 19, 2018.
- “Why We Welcome the Stranger” Bellarmine Parish Retreat, Milford, OH. January 27, 2018.
- “Liturgy and the World Day of the Poor,” Saint Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, MA, November 19, 2017.
- “Who is My Neighbor?” and “Toward a Culture of Encounter” Contemplative Retreat Plenaries, Jesuit Spiritual Center, Milford, OH. July 23-24, 2017.
- “Ignatian Discernment in Gratitude for Generosity” Xavier Student Affairs Staff Retreat, May 16, 2017.
- “Incorporating Diversity and Inclusion into the First Year Seminar” Xavier University Faculty at FYS Workshop in Center for Teaching Excellence, May 12, 2017.
- “Catholic Social Teaching: From Principles to Practice” Mercy Montessori Faculty and Staff Development, Cincinnati, OH. September 14, October 19, November 9, 2016, and February 21, 2017.
- “White Allies: Showing Up for Racial Justice” Xavier MLK Week Kick-Off Event, January 15, 2017.
- “Jesuits and ‘The Good’” Xavier FYS Faculty in the Center for Teaching Excellence, November 2, 2016.
- “Mercy: Who God Is and What God Wants” The Summit Country Day School Faculty and Staff Development, Cincinnati, OH. August 22, 2016.
- “After 225 Years, New Challenges in Mission: Being Neighbors Today” Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church Kemper Lecture, Cincinnati, OH. September 27, 2015.
- “Teaching to the Call of Jesuit Education Today” Marquette University Manresa Faculty Development: Resources for Social Justice. Milwaukee, WI. January 7, 2015.
- “Blessed are the Meek: Discernment, Fidelity, and Hopeful Action in Relationships and Families” School Sisters of St. Francis Speaker Series on the Beatitudes. Milwaukee, WI. May 9, 2012.
- “Conscientization in International Service” Volunteer Training for Jesuit Volunteer Corps and Rostro de Cristo Volunteers. Chestnut Hill, MA. July 22, 2011.
- “La Pastoral de Conjunto y Temas de la Enseñanza Social Católica” Presentation in Spanish to Pastoral Associates in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. May 18, 2008.
- “Theological Resources for Building Intercultural Bridges for Peace” Presentation in English and Spanish for Archdiocesan Youth Peace Forum. Milwaukee, WI. November 8, 2003.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

Society of Christian Ethics: Co-Convener, Family and Social Responsibility Interest Group (2018-Present); Reviewer, *Journal of Society of Christian Ethics* (2016-Present).

College Theology Society: Co-Convener, Justice and Peace Section (2018-Present); Reviewer, *Annual Volume of the College Theology Society* (2018-Present).

Catholic Theological Society of America: Resolutions Committee (2019-Present).

Member: Society of Christian Ethics, Catholic Theological Society of America, College Theology Society, American Academy of Religion, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Sigma Nu, Sigma Tau Delta, and Sigma Delta Pi

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Xavier University, 2020- (Assistant Professor from 2014-2020)
- CORE 100: Beyond Hookup Culture (first year seminar)
 - CORE 100: Digital Technology & Social Media (first year seminar)
 - CORE 100: From Service to Solidarity (first year seminar)
 - THEO 111: Theological Foundations
 - THEO 303: Christian Ethics: Methods & Questions
 - THEO 310: Marriage & Family
 - THEO 313: Christian Sexual Ethics
 - THEO 386: Spirituality and Solidarity
 - THEO 388: Theology & Ecology: Wilderness & Religious Imagination (in Alaska)
 - THEO 402: Reading Divine Texts (team-taught with professor of English as HONR 300)
 - THEO 422: Solidarity: Possibilities and Limits
 - THEO 495: MLK: Education for Social Change (tutorial)
 - THEO 547: Ethics in a Time of Planetary Crisis (graduate course)
 - THEO 632: Ethics in Ministry (graduate course)
 - THEO 695: Liberation & Feminist Ethics in a Filipina Focus (graduate tutorial)
- Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Summer 2018
- TMCE7004: The Moral Dimensions of the Christian Life
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious and Theological Studies, Merrimack College, 2013-2014
- RTS 1100: Christianity in Context
 - RTS 2800: Social Ethics: Christian Perspectives (also taught as adjunct, spring 2013)
 - RTS 2810: Sex, Marriage, Family, & Work: Christian Ethical Perspectives
- Teaching Assistant, Boston College, Spring 2012
- TH 433.01 & 433.02: Faith, Service, & Solidarity with Dr. Stephen Pope

GRANTS AWARDED

“Creating a Tool for Measuring and Responding to Moral Injury Caused by Clergy Sexual Abuse” \$40,000 grant awarded through *Taking Responsibility: Jesuit Educational Institutions Confront the Causes and Legacy of Sexual Abuse*, Fordham University, 2020-2022

UNIVERSITY-FUNDED RESEARCH

- Awarded Xavier University College of Arts and Sciences Funding to Mentor Undergraduate Research
- 2020: Students, Screens, Mental Health, and Morality (1 undergrad research assistant)
Ethnographic research on the impact of screens on mental health, moral identity and agency.
 - 2019: Trauma and Restorative Justice for College Sexual Violence (1 undergrad research assistant)
Examined how restorative justice practices can be applied to survivors and secondary victims of gender-based violence on college campuses.
 - 2018: Confronting College Sexual Violence: Toward Prevention (3 undergrad research assistants)
Addressed toxic masculinity, warped expectations related to identity, intimacy, and relationships, and the moral relativism of the student credo, “I do me, you do you.”
 - 2017: College Hookup Culture: Root Causes & New Possibilities (3 undergrad research assistants)
Focused on gender roles, the psychology of conversations around sex/consent, and the influence of social media on students’ operative anthropology and moral norms.
 - 2016: Race and Religion in America: Where are We Headed? (2 undergrad research assistants)
Combined scholarly research with in-person interviews to explore the influence of Christian theology in the #BlackLivesMatter movements in St. Louis and Cincinnati as well as the Catholic Church’s response to Latinx immigrants in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati.
 - 2015: What Do the Lay Faithful Have to Say about Marriage? (1 undergrad research assistant)
Reviewed responses to the Lineamenta survey provided by various U.S. dioceses for the 2014-2015 Synods on Marriage and Family.